

King George VI - Festival of Britain issue.

The **Festival of Britain** was a national exhibition held in 1951 to celebrate the nation's achievements in the **Arts, Industry and Science**. Although the main event was held on London's South Bank from 4th May to 30th September, other events were held all over the country. At that time, shortly after the end of World War II, many of our major towns and cities were in ruins and regeneration was badly needed. It should be remembered that in 1951 rationing was still part of everyday life. In fact, it was not until 3rd July 1954 that meat was de-rationed, ending all food rationing in Britain. The Festival, marking the centenary of the Great Exhibition of 1851, was officially opened on 3rd May 1951, and open to the public the next day.

To coincide with the festival, a complete range of postage stamps was envisaged, but in the event the General Post Office commissioned two commemorative stamps, the 2½d and 3d, to celebrate the Festival, a new series of four high value stamps {2/6d, 5/-, 10/-, and £1}, and five low value definitives issued in different colours {½d to 2½d}.

Twelve artists were invited to submit designs for the two proposed commemoratives. This produced some twenty-six designs, to which was added a design by Edmund Dulac who had been severely ill in hospital. His design was subsequently chosen for the 2½d value. In July 1950 it was decided to change the **3d** value to **4d** to cater for the forthcoming increase in the minimum overseas postage rate.



Unsuccessful design submitted by George Bellew.

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Chosen designs:

- **Edmund Dulac** - 2½d '*Commerce and Prosperity*'.
- **Abram Games** - 4d '*Festival Symbol*'. He also designed the official Exhibition symbol.

Printing details: Printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd, in sheets of 120 stamps, arranged in 20 rows of six stamps.

Issued date - 3rd May 1951.

Quantities sold - figures are shown above each stamp.

2½d - 260,141,520



131 dies

4d - 22,196,880



60 dies

The following table lists all known Perfin dies found on the '*Festival of Britain*' issue of King George VI.

| | Catalogue Number | Letters | 2½d SG513 | 4d SG514 |
|----|------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 1 | A0190.01M | AA/CoLd | 2½d | |
| 2 | A0580.01M | A.B/C.L | | 4d |
| 3 | A0830.01M | A/Bros | 2½d | 4d |
| 4 | A2150.01 | A&E/TCL | | 4d |
| 5 | A2720.02M | A.H | 2½d | 4d |
| 6 | A2900.01 | A.H/&/S | 2½d | |
| 7 | A4250.01 | AN/Ltd.. | | 4d |
| 8 | A4930.05a | A.S. | 2½d | |
| 9 | A5090.01M | A.S./H. | 2½d | |
| 10 | A5780.01 | A.W/E.B | 2½d | |
| 11 | A5800.02M | AWG | | 4d |
| 12 | B0013.10 | B | | 4d |
| 13 | B0230.04 | BASS | 2½d | |
| 14 | B1110.05M | BC | 2½d | |
| 15 | B1130.04 | B.C | 2½d | |
| 16 | B1150.02 | B.C. | 2½d | |
| 17 | B1200.02M | BC/BC | 2½d | |
| 18 | B2640.01 | BFA | | 4d |
| 19 | B2650.01 | B.F.B | | 4d |
| 20 | B3030.01M | B.G/Co | | 4d |
| 21 | B3310.01 | B/HC | 2½d | |
| 22 | B4190.01M | B.L./B. | 2½d | 4d |
| 23 | B4580.01M | BL/W | 2½d | |
| 24 | B4890.01 | BM/I | | 4d |
| 25 | B6430.06M | B&S | | 4d |
| 26 | B7100.01 | BT/C | 2½d | |
| 27 | B7180.02M | B/TH | | 4d |
| 28 | B7820.02 | BWW | 2½d | |
| 29 | C0010.07 | C | 2½d | |
| 30 | C0013.01M | C | 2½d | 4d |
| 31 | C0070.01M | C.A. | 2½d | 4d |
| 32 | C0460.01M | CB | | 4d |
| 33 | C1250.02M | CC/C | 2½d | |
| 34 | C1380.03 | CC/L | 2½d | 4d |
| 35 | C3030.01M | C.H. | 2½d | |
| 36 | C5760.01M | CP | 2½d | 4d |
| 37 | C5770.03M | C.P | | 4d |
| 38 | C5840.02M | CPA | 2½d | |
| 39 | C6800.09M | C&S | 2½d | |
| 40 | C7280.01M | CSS/CoLd | 2½d | |
| 41 | C8280.02M | C.W. | 2½d | |
| 42 | C8280.03 | C.W. | 2½d | |
| 43 | D0210.06 | DB | 2½d | |

| | Catalogue Number | Letters | 2½d SG513 | 4d SG514 |
|----|------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| 44 | D0290.01 | D&B/B | | 4d |
| 45 | D0580.02 | D.C. | 2½d | |
| 46 | D0740.02 | D.C/H.C | 2½d | |
| 47 | D1340.01M | D.D.D/Co. | 2½d | |
| 48 | D2080.03 | D&G | 2½d | |
| 49 | D2510.01M | D&I/WE | 2½d | |
| 50 | D3310.01 | DMS | | 4d |
| 51 | D4085.01a | D.R/C.L | 2½d | |
| 52 | D4120.02 | DR/Co | 2½d | |
| 53 | D4120.04 | DR/Co | 2½d | |
| 54 | D4130.01 | D.R/Co | 2½d | |
| 55 | D4130.03 | D.R/Co | 2½d | |
| 56 | E0270.02M | E.B | 2½d | |
| 57 | E2760.05 | ELW | 2½d | |
| 58 | E3110.01M | EMW | 2½d | |
| 59 | E4170.02b | ES/&/AR | 2½d | |
| 60 | E4960.02M | EW | | 4d |
| 61 | F0620.01M | F+C.F+C | 2½d | |
| 62 | F1590.01M | F.G | 2½d | |
| 63 | F1770.01 | F.H | 2½d | |
| 64 | F2460.01M | FLd | 2½d | 4d |
| 65 | F2517.01 | F.Ltd. | 2½d | |
| 66 | G1540.01M | GE/C | 2½d | 4d |
| 67 | G3465.01m | GMS mono | 2½d | |
| 68 | G5530.01 | G.W.E. | 2½d | |
| 69 | H0012.11 | H | 2½d | 4d |
| 70 | H0280.01 | HAW | | 4d |
| 71 | H0690.01 | H.B/L | | 4d |
| 72 | H0730.02 | H&B/Ld | 2½d | |
| 73 | H1240.01M | HC/B | 2½d | |
| 74 | H1490.01 | H&Co. | 2½d | |
| 75 | H1530.03M | H/&Co | 2½d | |
| 76 | H2980.01 | H&/GS | 2½d | |
| 77 | H3110.05a | HH | 2½d | 4d |
| 78 | H4420.01M | H./L. | 2½d | 4d |
| 79 | H5200.01M | HM/SO | | 4d |
| 80 | H5520.01 | H/(O)/Ltd | 2½d | |
| 81 | H6350.06 | H&S | 2½d | |
| 82 | H6750.01M | H&S/Ltd.. | 2½d | |
| 83 | I1510.01M | IL | | 4d |
| 84 | J0695.01M | JB/Co.Ld. | 2½d | |
| 85 | J1590.02M | J&Co. | | 4d |
| 86 | J2270.02M | JDW/M | 2½d | |
| 87 | J2270.03M | JDW/M | 2½d | 4d |
| 88 | J2880.01 | JFS/T | 2½d | |
| 89 | J3190.01 | J.G.N | 2½d | |

| | Catalogue Number | Letters | 2½d SG513 | 4d SG514 |
|-----|------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| 90 | J5040.01 | J.L./&S. | 2½d | 4d |
| 91 | J5230.01 | J.M. | 2½d | |
| 92 | J7160.01 | J/SMITH | 2½d | |
| 93 | J8280.01 | J.W | 2½d | |
| 94 | K0009.01M | K | | 4d |
| 95 | K0110.01M | K.B/B | | 4d |
| 96 | K0320.01M | KC/H | 2½d | |
| 97 | K0710.01 | KESSLER | 2½d | |
| 98 | K1370.01M | K.M./&Co./M | 2½d | |
| 99 | L1350.01 | L.C./W.W. | 2½d | |
| 100 | L1930.01 | L.E./&P. | 2½d | |
| 101 | L3180.01 | LINE | 2½d | 4d |
| 102 | L3410.01M | LL | 2½d | 4d |
| 103 | L4140.01M | LN/E | 2½d | |
| 104 | L4360.01b | LP | 2½d | 4d |
| 105 | L4360.01d | LP | 2½d | |
| 106 | L4590.01M | LP/TN | | 4d |
| 107 | L4880.01 | L.S. | 2½d | |
| 108 | M0011.01M | M | | 4d |
| 109 | M1020.03 | M.C | 2½d | |
| 110 | M2320.01M | M.E/&Co.. | 2½d | |
| 111 | M3620.01 | M.L | 2½d | |
| 112 | M4740.01 | MR/CP | | 4d |
| 113 | M5860.01M | M.V/Co. | 2½d | 4d |
| 114 | M6030.01M | MW/Co. | 2½d | 4d |
| 115 | N0011.02M | N | 2½d | |
| 116 | N0240.01m | NB mono | 2½d | |
| 117 | N1660.01 | N.H/C | | 4d |
| 118 | N2750.02 | NR/C | 2½d | 4d |
| 119 | P0160.01 | PAGE | 2½d | 4d |
| 120 | P0210.01M | PAL/L | 2½d | |
| 121 | P2610.02M | PJ | 2½d | 4d |
| 122 | P3500.04 | P&O/Co. | | 4d |
| 123 | P3840.02 | PR/DC | 2½d | |
| 124 | P5230.02M | P/W8 | | 4d |
| 125 | R0012.10M | R | 2½d | |
| 126 | R0031.01 | R | | 4d |
| 127 | R0475.04 | R.B/&Co. | 2½d | |
| 128 | R1110.01M | RCo/Y | | 4d |
| 129 | R1660.01M | RE/WR | 2½d | |
| 130 | R2850.01 | R.I.E. | 2½d | |
| 131 | R4625.01 | RS&C/Ltd.. | 2½d | |
| 132 | R4650.01 | RS/&Co. | 2½d | |
| 133 | R4830.04M | R&S/Ld | 2½d | 4d |
| 134 | S0090.01bmM | S on A | 2½d | |
| 135 | S1210.01M | SC | 2½d | |

| | Catalogue Number | Letters | 2½d SG513 | 4d SG514 |
|-----|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 136 | S1210.04M | SC | 2½d | |
| 137 | S1230.02 | S.C. | 2½d | |
| 138 | S1810.03M | SCW/SLd | 2½d | |
| 139 | S2350.01M | S& E | | 4d |
| 140 | S2550.01 | S.E./H. | 2½d | |
| 141 | S3060.03BM | SG | | 4d |
| 142 | S3780.01M | S.I.C. | 2½d | |
| 143 | S5890.01 | SPERO | | 4d |
| 144 | S6490.01M | S.S/C | 2½d | |
| 145 | T0150.02 | TA/&Co | | 4d |
| 146 | T0370.01M | T.B.B. | 2½d | |
| 147 | T1880.01 | TG/Co | 2½d | |
| 148 | T3910.02M | TR&S/R | 2½d | |
| 149 | T4040.03 | T&S | 2½d | |
| 150 | T4500.02 | T.T./&Co. | 2½d | 4d |
| 151 | T5110.01 | TWL | 2½d | |
| 152 | T5130.01 | TW/MC | 2½d | |
| 153 | T5220.01 | TWW | 2½d | |
| 154 | U0420.02aM | U..C/Co | 2½d | |
| 155 | U1170.01M | U.L | 2½d | |
| 156 | W0430.02AM | W.B. | 2½d | |
| 157 | W1250.01 | W.C./Ld. | 2½d | |
| 158 | W1590.01 | W.C./&S./Ld. | 2½d | |
| 159 | W2300.01M | WE/L | 2½d | |
| 160 | W5160.03b | WM | 2½d | |
| 161 | W5400.01M | W.M./M. | 2½d | 4d |
| 162 | W5480.01 | WM/UDC | 2½d | |
| 163 | W5860.04M | WP | 2½d | |
| 164 | W6680.17 | W&S | 2½d | |
| 165 | W6780.01M | WS/CC | 2½d | |
| 166 | #0110.01 | 129 | 2½d | |
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Three Perfin covers have been reported.

- “CC/C” used by the ‘Carron Company’, postmarked Falkirk, 16th May 1951.
- “SG” used by Société Générale.
- “U..C/C” used by the ‘United-Castle’ Mail Steamship Co, postmarked Southampton, 5th July 1951.

The list is correct to **1st January 2019**.

Any additional information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Please forward any new details to:

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or via e-Mail to Alastair Walter (Webmaster) at perfinsoc@gmail.com